

The Honorable Mayor Rothschild and
Members of the Tucson City Council

Subject: GLBT Commission Annual Report

The Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues would like to thank Mayor and Council for the opportunity to serve the city of Tucson. We are appreciative of the support of the City Clerk's office through this past year. The staff has been generous and helpful in fielding our questions. During 2012, the GLBT Commission has endeavored to carry on our mission to foster conditions that promote the welfare of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people of metropolitan Tucson, Arizona, through advocacy, education, and collaborative relationships with government, community organizations, and individuals.

Activities in 2012:

- In February, GLBT Commission members supported the Habitat for Humanity Rainbow Build by taking part in the construction as well as the shooting of a documentary produced to encourage community-wide participation.
- In March, the GLBT Commission sought to re-initiate dialogue with TFD regarding employee relations in light of ongoing concerns voiced by GLBT fire fighters and the larger community.
- In October, members of the GLBT Commission participated in the annual Pride in the Desert event held at Armory Park, using the opportunity to provide information regarding the commission's activities and the city non-discrimination policy to the public. Shared booth space was generously provided by Wingspan.
- The Commission continued to advocate for the Equal Benefits Ordinance, which would require businesses that hold contracts with the city to abide by the city's non-discrimination ordinance by offering the same options of benefits to domestic partners of employees as they do to spouses of employees.
- The Commission continued to work to secure changes to Chapter 17 of the City Code, updating language regarding "gender identity," to bring it into alignment with the city's non-discrimination ordinance.

The Tucson GLBT Commission anticipates a productive 2013 that moves equality forward for all Tucsonans.

Respectfully,

Gayle Brickert-Albrecht
Co-Chair

Davin Franklin-Hicks
Co-Chair